

NOTES ON HUGH WHISTLER'S "A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ORNITHOLOGY OF CASHMERE" IN VOL. XXVIII, No. 4.

BY

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(With a Plate.)

The Jungle Crow—*Corvus coronoides intermedius*.

Everywhere common the moment one leaves the main valley. I met with them in the Sind Valley at the end of June as high as 13,000 feet.

The Yellow-billed Blue Magpie—*Urocissa flavirostris*.

On May 31st at Rajpur I took a nest containing 3 eggs, and noticed another pair building. They were common here between 6 and 8,000 feet.

The Crested Cole Tit—*Parus melanolophus*.

Very common in the Deodar forests from about 7,000 up to 10,000 feet. Nest containing 6 fresh eggs on May 31st above Rampur (between the Wular Lake and the Lolab Valley) about 8,000' and nests with young ones in same place on June 3rd, 1921, and at Imaslwara 7,000 feet on June 6th, 1921.

The Western Streaked Laughing Thrush—*Trochalopteryx lineatum*.

Clutch of 3 eggs brought to me by gujars near Imaslwara (about 7,500 feet) on June 3rd.

The White-cheeked Bulbul—*Pycnonotus leucogenys*.

On my way down to the Wular on May 22nd I was shown a nest, containing eggs, inside an upper room of a dwelling house in a village close to the canal bank. The female was sitting, although the room was occupied by the female members of the household. I cannot now remember how it was placed, but I think it was a thatched roof, and the nest was more or less wedged into a crevice in the thatch.

The Himalayan Tree Creeper—*Certhia himalayana*.

Five fresh eggs, June 1st, in Deodar forest on the eastern slopes of the Lolab Valley (8,000'). The nest was about 5 feet from the ground. At the beginning of July I noticed these birds were very noisy, and were going about in bands or family parties.

The Great Reed-warbler—*Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*.

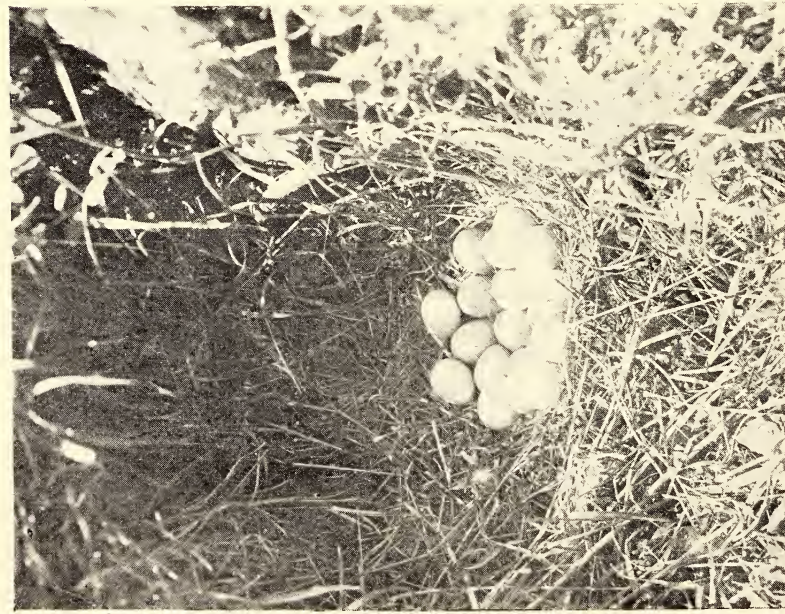
The first nest I took was on June 4th in the Wular Lake, and contained two eggs. After that date I took many nests in the Dhal Lake, some quite close to the gate. In 1921, I took nests with eggs in the Dhal Lake on June 12th and at Hokra Jhil on June 21st. One bird actually pitched on the rim of its nest, when I was inspecting the contents.

The Brown Bush-warbler—*Horeites pallidus*.

Heard them frequently in the Sind and Liddar valleys. Capt. Livesey showed me the eggs from a nest he took on the hill side above the Takht-i-suleman about the 20th June 1921.

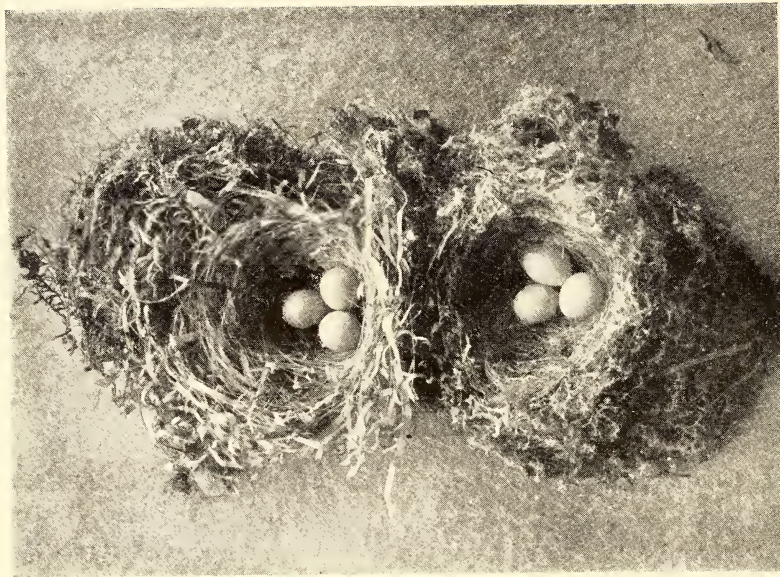
The Indian Lesser White-throat—*Sylvia curruca affinis*.

At the end of May I found many of their nests in low prickly bushes on the Western shore of the Wular. I too thought there was no doubt about this bird's identity, so I neither collected specimens nor took eggs. I also noticed they were common in the Liddar Valley from Pahlgam downwards, wherever there was suitable undergrowth.



Chukor's Nest and eggs.

(*Alectoris gracca chukor.*) (Abnormal clutch of 21 eggs.)



1. Nest and eggs of the White eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher
(*Muscicapa superciliosa*).

2. Nest and eggs of the Sooty Flycatcher (*Hemichelidon
sibirica*.)

The Large Crowned Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis*.

Took a nest in a hole in a stump at Imaslwara (7,000') on June 6th, 1921. It contained 4 eggs and also an egg of the Himalayan Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*). Other nests, containing young ones, at Liddarwat at the beginning of July.

The Greenish Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus nitidus viridanus*.

A Willow-wren, which I took to be this species, was breeding abundantly from about the Valley level up to 10,000' or more. By the end of June only nests containing young ones were to be found.

The Golden Oriole—*Oriolus oriolus kundoo*.

Nest in pear tree at Kunus, Wular Lake, on June 1st, 1921. Watched one building at the summit of an enormous chenar at Bundipur on May 25th, 1921.

The Rufous-backed Shrike—*Lanius schach erythronotus*.

Plenty of eggs by half way through May.

The Cashmere Red-breasted Flycatcher—*Muscicapa parva hyperythra*.

Empty but newly completed nest near Imaslwara 7,000' on June 3rd. Capt. Livesey subsequently took a number of nests with eggs in this neighbourhood a few days later.

The White-eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher—*Muscicapa superciliaris*.

Nest in crevice of a Birch tree at Liddarwat at about 10,000' on July 4th, 1921. 3 fresh eggs.

The Rufous-tailed Flycatcher—*Alseonax ruficaudus*.

Three fresh eggs at Imaslwara (8,000'), June 5th, 1921.

The Paradise Flycatcher—*Tchitrea paradisi paradisi*.

Nest with 3 incubated eggs in fruit tree at Watlab, June 7th, 1921.

The White-capped Redstart—*Chaimarrornis leucocephala*.

I met with them first on May 26th on the Madmatti a couple of miles above Sonerwain. In the Liddar Valley, at the beginning of July, 1921, I found them breeding at Sekwas (11,000') and between Liddarwat and Kolahoi (also between 10 and 11,000'). I only saw one bird below Liddarwat at that time of the year.

The Plumbeous Redstart—*Chaimarrornis fuliginosa fuliginosa*.

Very common on all the side rivers and torrents, there being about one pair to every quarter of a mile or so. Absent from the valley, where the currents are sluggish. 4 eggs, incubated, Sonerwain, May 27th; 3 young ones, Sarwan, June 26th; 4 eggs, incubated, and ? eggs, Aru July 7th. Young ones, Pahlgam, July 8th.

The Blue Rock Thrush—*Monticola solitaria pandoo*.

Nest lately vacated by young on May 30th; 3 eggs nearly fresh, June 10th; 4 eggs, May 31st, 1921; building June 7th, 1921. (All on western shore of Wular Lake).

The White-capped Bunting—*Emberiza steuarti*.

This bunting appears to stick to the slopes around the valley, ascending them for about a 1,000'. Their place is then taken by *E. cia stracheyi*, which is to be met with for about another two thousand feet. As far as I could make out the two species do not overlap. This would account for Mr. Whistler's failing to detect the latter. They both breed profusely throughout their range. *E. cia stracheyi* is much victimized by the European Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

The Striated Swallow—*Hirundo daurica*.

Noticed them flying about Lake Gagrabal in June.

Hodgson's Pipit.—*Anthus roseatus*.

I found them breeding in large numbers between the Sind and Liddar valleys from 11,000' up to the snow-level. They are most partial to wet ground. In fact I never saw them away from the streams and snow sodden ground. By the beginning of July there were many young birds about. I only found one nest with eggs (3) and these were almost on the point of hatching. This was on the 1st July 1921.

The Brown Rock Pipit.—*Anthus sordidus Jerdoni*.

Nest containing young ones at Watlab on June 7th, 1921.

The Grey Wagtail.—*Motacilla cinerea melanope*.

I found them on the Madmatti from Sonerwain onwards at the end of May. Seems to be an early breeder; as I was not able to find unincubated eggs.

The Cashmere White Wagtail—*Motacilla alba hodgsoni*.

Found a nest at Bundipur on May 23rd with large youngsters almost ready to leave the nest. I also found other nests with young about this time. A pair started building inside a rolled-up chick on my houseboat on May 20th. At Pahlgam on July 8th, I came across a nest with 5 quite fresh eggs in it.

Hodgson's Yellow Wagtail—*Motacilla citreola calcarata*.

Breeds in enormous numbers in June around such jhils as Hokra and the marshes between that jhil and the Wular, preferring to place the nest at the foot of a bush or in a tuft of long grass on wet ground.

The Cashmere Blue-throat—*Luscinia suecica abbotti*.

Took a nest of what was evidently this species at Sekwas, Liddar Valley (11,500 feet) on July 1st, 1921. It contained 4 eggs decidedly hard set.

The Iron-grey Bush-chat.—*Oreicola ferrea ferrea*.

Took two nests near Pahlgam on 8th July 1921. One contained newly hatched young; the other 4 incubated eggs. Also noted pairs at Rajpur (6,500 feet), Wular Lake on June 2nd, 1921, and at Imaslwara (6,500 feet) on June 6th, 1921, but failed to find the nests.

Jerdon's Accentor.—*Prunella strophiatius jerdoni*.

Very common above forest level between the Sind and Liddar valleys at the end of June. Practically every patch of Juniper I investigated held a nest. The majority appeared to be laying, and numbers were still building. Only one nest near Kem Sar and at about 12,500' contained 3 eggs. I am not at all certain that my identification of this Accentor is correct, as I collected no specimens. The nests were like those of the "Hedge-sparrow" and 2' or 3' from the ground.

The Himalayan Whistling Thrush—*Myiophonus temmincki temmincki*.

Capt. Livesey took incubated eggs halfway through May in the Ferozpora nala. On the Madmatti I found nests towards the end of May in both 1920 and 21, which appeared to have been lately evacuated, and was unable to find any nest in actual use. At the beginning of July I took nests in the Liddar Valley from Liddarwat down to Pahlgam usually within a few yards of a used nest. Three contained 1, 2 and 3 eggs respectively, and on four more the females were sitting. Of these two were in inaccessible situations, and two were still empty. It seems to me to be likely that two broods are brought up in the year